

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

**Contact: Kena Rice** 

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters 1200 Epic Center 301 N. Main Wichita, Kansas 67202 (316)269-6481 FAX (316)269-6484 **Topeka Office** 444 Quincy Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office 500 State Avenue Suite 360 Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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## VENDOR EMPLOYEES WORKING AT BOEING FACILITY CHARGED

WICHITA, Kan. – Three employees of a Boeing vendor performing contract work at Boeing Wichita have been charged with misuse of a Social Security number and appear to be in the United States illegally, United States Attorney for Kansas Eric Melgren announced today.

The three were arrested Tuesday at the Boeing Security Operations office, where they previously had been issued site credentials that identify them while they work on Boeing property. All three are employees of Buckley Roofing Company, Inc., a Wichita roofing company, Melgren said.

The arrests are part of ongoing investigation being conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the United States Department of Defense, the Office of Inspector General of the Social Security Administration, and the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement. The investigation relates to employees of vendors who are present at Department of Defense contractor facilities, Melgren said.

Boeing has provided vital assistance in the investigation, Melgren said. The

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investigation is likely to identify additional undocumented employees of vendors at Boeing and other defense contractors, he said.

"It is extremely important that we know who has access to our vital defense contractor facilities," Melgren said. "It is unacceptable that vendors have undocumented employees or employees working under assumed names at these facilities. I would hope that defense contractor vendors would do everything in their power to verify the identities of their on-site employees."

The three charged are identified in court papers as Jose Angel-Diaz, 31; and Juan Gandara, 30, both who live in Wichita; and Manuel Garcia-Rodriguez, 42, who lives in Newton. All three are scheduled for an initial appearance in federal court at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday before United States Magistrate Judge Donald W. Bostwick.

If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, three years supervised release, and a \$100 special crime victims fund assessment. As in any criminal case, the defendants charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.